

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No. 09/987,361

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 7

Attachment: Replacement Sheet



Claims 1-3, 5-13 and 15-20, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected. Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11, 17 and 18.

Drawings

The Examiner has requested new drawings to correct a typographical error in claim 7. A replacement sheet is submitted herewith.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 3 because of a misspelling, which has now been corrected.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller (6,787,331) in view of Nields (6,459,925). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

First, Applicant wishes to note that Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 11 and 17, to emphasize that the photographing information is "to be superposed into *the* image." This feature is supported in the originally filed specification at page 10, lines 14-15.

Second, the claimed invention is clearly different from the cited references.

Muller et al

Muller et al. discloses a device for taking radiologic images. The disclosed device comprises (1) means for detecting the angle of swivel of the arm, (2) means for entering data relative to the organ to be studied, (3) processing means capable of determining the type of image that will be taken as a function of the angle of swivel and of said data relative to the organ, and (4) means for displaying on the image the type of image determined by said processing means.

As described at column 5, lines 33-38, after reading of the angle of the arm, it is

compared with prerecorded threshold data such as those illustrated in Fig. 5 to derive information relative to the types of views. However, the information in Muller et al. does not correspond to photographing information to be superposed into the image, as now recited in the claims that define the present invention.

Nields et al

Nields et al. discloses a user interface system for mammographic imager in which x-ray and ultrasound images may be combinatively employed to provide three-dimensional information regarding a location of interest within the body. Fig. 18 of Nields et al. discloses a pre-fire needle position, which would be previously inputted by the user. However, Nields et al. does not disclose any step or means for selectively determining position and size on the image in which the photographing information is to be superposed, as now recited in the claims that define the present invention.

Claims 8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller (6,787,331) in view of Nields (6,459,925) and further in view of Kaneko (4,783,832). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner admits that neither Muller nor Nields expressly discloses superposing the photographing information data (particularly characters) into image data. The Examiner looks to Kaneko for a disclosure of superimposing character data on image data at col. 2, lines 21-22. The Examiner asserts that photographing information is often in the form of characters.

Kaneko

Kaneko discloses an image processing apparatus which includes an image memory for storing digital image data obtained by A/D-converting a video signal, an arithmetic circuit for performing an arithmetic operation of the image data so as to emphasize an edge, a first plane memory for storing the edge image data, and a second plane memory for storing binary data of all "1" or "0" so that the area surrounded by the edge line is painted with the binary data. As described at column 2, lines 11-23, the output terminal of the arithmetic circuit is connected to the input terminal of an image emphasis circuit, and the output terminal of the image emphasis

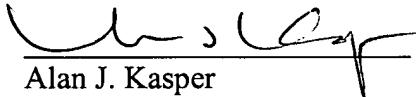
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circuit is connected to the input terminal of a data superimpose circuit, which is arranged to superimpose display or printing character data on image data. However, Kaneko does not disclose superposing the photographing information into the image in accordance with the selectively determined position and size as recited in claims 8 and 18 of the present application.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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